



plant a garden



protect the Bay

BayScapes at the U.S. Army Environmental Center

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U.S. Army
Environmental Center

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

BayScapes planting tips

- Plant evergreens and berry-producing shrubs. Their roots prevent erosion, and they provide color, cover and food for wildlife all year round.
- Choose perennials when possible. They reappear to bloom each year, in ever-greater numbers.
- Newly planted BayScapes require weeding, mulching and watering in dry periods. Once established, a native plant garden almost maintains itself.
- Create wildlife habitat by stacking tree limbs and twigs in a few areas of the garden. They serve as safe havens for many animals, including turtles.
- Mowing grass is a chore, and it can damage trees. Replace turf grass around trees with native shrubs or groundcover, such as highbush blueberry.
- Hummingbirds love nectar from the flowers of red trumpet creeper vine, and the twining stems of the vine provide shelter for other birds.
- An herb garden is a magnet for butterflies in all stages of life. Plant enough herbs to share with wild residents!
- Check with local nurseries before buying unfamiliar plants. Non-natives may require the use of pesticides or much water.
- Take care to avoid invasive species, which can overtake native plants and reduce food sources. Ask your nursery for a list of invasive species.

For more information

about planting BayScapes at your home or workplace, contact:

- **U.S. Army Environmental Center**
<http://aec.army.mil>
- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**
410-573-4581
<http://www.fws.gov>
- **Chesapeake Bay Program**
1-800-YOUR BAY
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net>



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BayScapes and USAEC

After every rain, stormwater cascades down roofs, over lawns and parking lots, into gutters and drains, collecting sediment and pollutants as it goes. Normally, native plants and trees would prevent some of the runoff from rushing unchecked into our water system.



But overdevelopment reduces nature’s defenses. Without a plant buffer, polluted stormwater runoff flows into little streams, great rivers, and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay.

The U.S. Army operates 19 military installations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, covering thousands of acres of land, most of it undeveloped. The U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, known as USAEC, helps the Army restore and protect the natural resources on all of its lands.

USAEC has developed this *BayScapes* demonstration garden, in the heart of its most historic buildings, to show how simple planting techniques can make a big difference in protecting the Bay.

BayScapes are gardens of native plants that filter pollutants and conserve water, resist local pests and disease, and help improve the quality of our water resources. They are beautiful, easy to grow and attract wildlife.

You can help protect the Bay by planting BayScapes at your home or workplace.

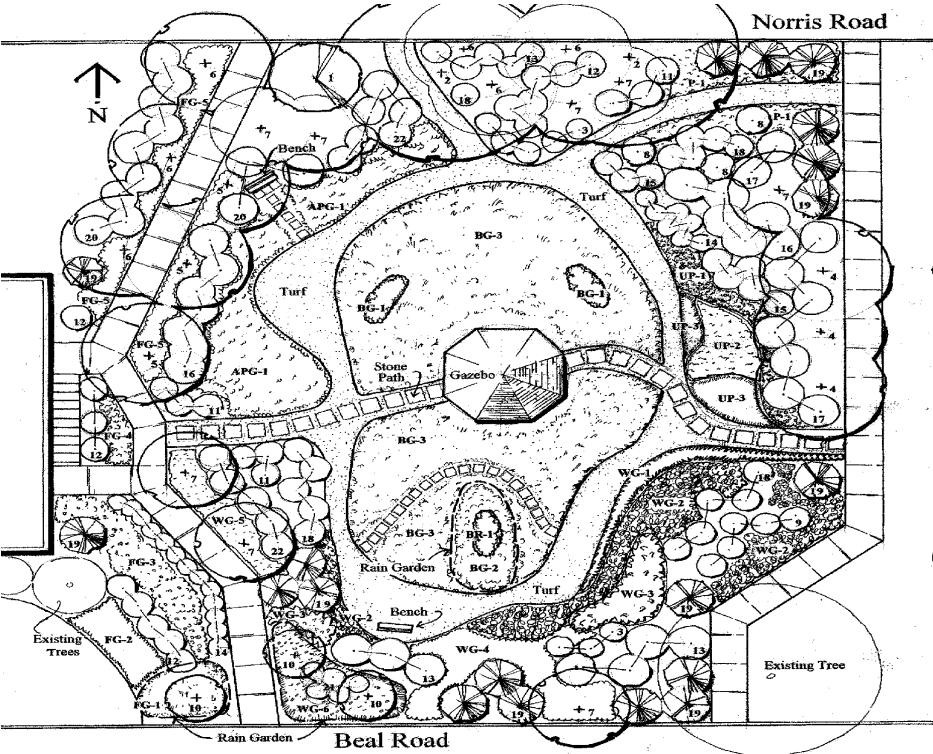
Rain garden

A rain garden helps the Chesapeake Bay in many ways. It collects stormwater runoff, where its plants and layered soil filter excess nutrients, chemicals and other pollutant from the water before they reach streams and the Bay. Create your own rain garden w water drains or pools. Remove turf grass and fill the low spot with layers of sand, soil and mulch. Then add plants that can get their “feet” wet, but don’t mind a dry spell, such as garden phlox or swamp milkweed.

Usable plant garden



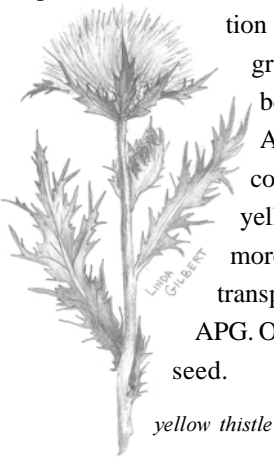
Put plants to use - in your kitchen or for your health. Herbs such as rosemary, sage, and dill bring a wonderful fragrance to the garden and delightful taste to the table. *Echinacea purpurea*, also known as purple coneflower, grows lovely flowers and foliage, which some people believe improves immunity to infection. The purplish, tender stems of nodding onion provide a savory treat for garden visitors. Bee balm, so named because of bees’ fondness of its nectar-rich blossoms, also makes a fragrant tea.



The BayScapes Demonstration Garden at USAEC

APG native plant garden

Aberdeen Proving Ground is home to several species of plants that are not often found outside the installation – butternut trees, purple love grass and Maryland meadow beauty, to name a few. The APG native plant garden contains these plus goldenrod, yellow thistle, Indiangrass, and more. Many of the plants were transplanted from other sites on APG. Others have grown readily from seed.



Butterfly garden

A lush, green lawn requires lots of fertilizer, water and fussing to keep it green, and it actually discourages butterflies from visiting. Replace turf grass in a sunny location with a butterfly garden. Plant little blue stem and joe-pye weed for hungry caterpillars. Give them a place to hide and build cocoons on plants with twigs and broad leaves. Add clusters of colorful native wildflowers, such as Maryland golden aster and butterfly weed. Butterflies relish their nectar, and will stay to hatch eggs that bring more caterpillars.



Monarch butterfly on butterfly weed